What is Claimed:

1.   A computer-readable medium with computer-readable instructions for a hardware/software interface system for a computer system, wherein said hardware/software interface system manipulates a plurality of discrete units of information having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system ("Items").

2.   The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises a core schema to define a set of core Items which said hardware/software interface system understands and can directly process in a predetermined and predictable way.

3.   The computer-readable medium of claim 2 wherein each Item from the set of core Items is derived (directly or indirectly) from a common single base Item.

4.   The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein said common single base Item is a foundational Item in a Base Schema.

5.   The computer-readable medium of claim 4 wherein said foundational Item type comprises a property for a unique identification of said Item in a hardware/software interface system.

6.   The computer-readable medium of claim 4 wherein said core schema further defines a set of core properties which said hardware/software interface system understands and can directly process in a predetermined and predictable way.

7.   The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein each property from the set of core Items is derived (directly or indirectly) from at least one base property.

8.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein said base property is a property in a Base Schema.

9.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for devices.

10.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for events.

11.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for commodities.

12.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for messages.

13.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for Categories.

14.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for principals.

15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for locations.

16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for documents.

17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for statements.

18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for contacts.

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a certificate.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a principal idunit key.

21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a postal address.

22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a rich text element.

23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for an electronic address.

24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for an idunit security package.

25.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a Relationship for occupying a role between two Contacts.

26.   The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a basic presence.

27.   A method, in a computer system, for a hardware/software interface system to manipulate a plurality of discrete units of information having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system ("Items"), said method comprising the use of a core schema to define a set of core Items which said hardware/software interface system understands and can directly process in a predetermined and predictable way.

28.   A hardware/software interface system, in a computer system, for manipulating a plurality of discrete units of information having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system ("Items").

29.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 28 wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises a core schema to define a set of core Items which said hardware/software interface system understands and can directly process in a predetermined and predictable way.

30.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 29 wherein each Item from the set of core Items is derived (directly or indirectly) from a common single base Item.

31.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 30 wherein said common single base Item is a foundational Item in a Base Schema.

32.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 31 wherein said foundational Item type comprises a property for a unique identification of said Item in a hardware/software interface system.

33.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 31 wherein said core schema further defines a set of core properties which said hardware/software interface system understands and can directly process in a predetermined and predictable way.

34.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 33 wherein each property from the set of core Items is derived (directly or indirectly) from at least one base property.

35.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein said base property is a property in a Base Schema.

36.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for devices.

37.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for events.

38.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for commodities.

39.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for messages.

40.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for Categories.

41.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for principals.

42.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for locations.

43.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for documents.

44.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises an Item for statements.

45.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a certificate.

46.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a principal idunit key.

47.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a postal address.

48.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a rich text element.

49.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for an electronic address.

50.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for an idunit security package.

51.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for occupying a role.

52.   The hardware/software interface system of claim 34 wherein the core schema comprises a property for a basic presence.